



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



June 8, 2010

Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"(The efforts) have paid off in what we have been able to give to people around the world who, in their wildest dreams, never thought that from the sea there would come people who care about them, who care about their families, and who care about their future."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, regarding naval Haiti relief efforts

In early May, CNO sat on the [Service Chiefs' Panel at the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space Exposition 2010](#) in National Harbor, Md.; attended the NAVAIR change of command ceremony; was the luncheon speaker at the Law of the Sea Convention hosted at the National Press Club; and delivered remarks at the [Heritage Foundation](#) in Washington, D.C. In mid-May, CNO recognized the [Shore Activities Sailors of the Year](#) during a ceremony at the Pentagon, and was the honorary representative for the Navy at the [Project Hope Spring Gala](#) in Washington, D.C. CNO and Commandants of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard released the [Naval Operations Concept 2010](#), which guides implementation of the Maritime Strategy and describes how, when and where U.S. naval forces will contribute to enhancing security, preventing conflict and prevailing in war. CNO wrapped up the month by attending the U.S. Coast Guard Change of Command Ceremony and administering the oath of office to new ensigns at [the United States Naval Academy graduation](#) in Annapolis, Md. CNO honored Americans who have died in service by attending the 142nd Memorial Day Observance at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, Va., and cycling the first day of the [Ride 2 Recovery Memorial Challenge](#) to honor and support injured veterans.

Current Readiness – Restoring Naval Support Activity Mid-South Command

CNO took two trips to Millington, Tenn., this month to visit [Naval Support Activity Mid-South Command](#) after a flood swept through the region, closing the base to all but mission-essential personnel. CNO visited Sailors, civilians, volunteers and leadership to ensure the safety of those affected by the flood and took a first-hand look at structural damage caused by the disaster. CNO hosted a town hall meeting to address the Navy's plan of action following the flood and answered any questions the Sailors had.

"I can't say enough about how prepared this base was and how responsive everyone who serves here was... first and foremost (to) safety, but then volunteering and making sure that everybody was taken care of."

Future Readiness – Affordability

While at the [Navy League Sea-Air-Space Exposition 2010](#), CNO addressed sustaining the current capabilities of today's Navy while having an eye on the future. These capabilities include programs such as Littoral Combat Ships, the Joint High Speed Vessel, unmanned vehicles and more sophisticated cyber technology. CNO recognized the need to approach the future of the Navy with innovative and progressive ideas that will still be affordable and cost-efficient.

"There's no question that in the coming years we will have to look extraordinarily hard at costs... not just procurement costs, but the issue of total ownership cost will continue to be foremost in my mind."

People – Ride 2 Recovery Memorial Challenge

CNO participated in his second [Ride 2 Recovery](#) ride, combining his enthusiasm for cycling with his admiration for wounded warriors and injured veterans. CNO cycled from Washington, D.C., to Manassas, Va., and used the opportunity to talk with service members and show support to the organization. The challenge displays the perseverance, commitment, and unwillingness to quit by all who participated.

"The example that you set, how you have driven on, is just a reminder that life is like riding a bicycle, you got to keep moving."